

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-08

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /047 W

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R 100938Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8511

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, RP

SUB: PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CORPORATION (PITC)

REF: A. STATE 197062; B. MANILA A-219

1. CONCERN OF IMPORTED HARDWOOD PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (IHPA) WITH RESPECT TO GOP DECREE 252 ESTABLISHING PITC EMANATES FROM ANXIETIES FELT BY LOCAL WOOD INDUSTRY. THESE ANXIETIES BASED, HOWEVER, NOT ON KNOWN GOP PLANS BUT RATHER ON CONJECTURE AS TO WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF WORST CASE SITUATION WERE TO MATERIALIZE.

2. AS DESCRIBED REF B, PLANS FOR PITC NOT YET FORMULATED IN CONCRETE TERMS, AND EMBASSY BELIEVES IT LIKELY TO BE SOME TIME YET BEFORE PITC IS IN POSITION TO EXERT INFLUENCE, WHETHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, ON TRADE IN PHILIPPINE PRODUCTS. EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO REASON FOR SUPPOSING WOOD PRODUCTS ARE TO BE SINGLED OUT FOR ATTENTION BY PITC, AND CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY IHPA HAVE AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE BASIS AS WOULD SIMILAR CONCERNS WHICH MIGHT BE EXPRESSED BY IMPORTERS OF ANY PHILIPPINE PRODUCT. TENTATIVE PLANS REPORTED REF B TO SEEK TO REDUCE SHIPPING COSTS OF BULK COMMODITIES SUCH AS PLYWOOD AND VENEER ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS IMPLYING STATE TRADING MONOPOLY

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THESE PRODUCTS.

3. EMBASSY HAS CONSULTED WITH MANAGER OF U.S. COMPANY WHO IS ALSO A DIRECTOR OF PHILIPPINE LUMBER AND PLYWOOD MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION. WHILE HE EXPRESSES CONCERN IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF IHPA DESCRIBED REF A, HE STATES THAT ASSOCIATION HAS GOOD CONTACTS AND THEY HAVE PICKED UP NOTHING WHICH WOULD SUGGEST ANY ACTIONS PRESENTLY BEING CONTEMPLATED TO CREATE TRADING MONOPOLY IN WOOD PRODUCTS FOR PITC.
SULLIVAN

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